MAD RURAL

# Towns of Madrid



Financiado por la Unión Europea NextGenerationEU

GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA MINISTERIO DE INDUSTRIA Y TURISMO

Plan de Recuperación, Transformación y Resiliencia

Comunidad de Madrid

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# HISTORY, STONE AND LIFE IN THE SQUARES WHERE TIME CAN STILL BE HEARD

Beyond the capital, the Community of Madrid is home to eleven towns brimming with character, places where heritage does not appear as a static relic, but as a living way of inhabiting time. Castles, main squares, underground cellars, medieval walls, churches, palaces and Baroque complexes trace a route through a deeper, more serene and nuanced side of Madrid.

Madrid's towns form a map of extraordinary historical and scenic diversity: Castilian squares, medieval walls, Enlightenment-era towns, mountain villages and fortresses that still guard the memory of ancient borders. They are places to discover at a leisurely pace, letting yourself be carried away by the beauty of the stone, the warmth of their squares, the richness of their cuisine and the tranquil life of their landscapes. A journey through that side of Madrid which is often left off the most obvious itineraries, yet which retains one of its greatest virtues intact: that of remaining true to itself.




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# LAS VEGAS & ALCARRIA MADRILEÑA

Heritage · Scenic · Ideal for combining culture and gastronomy

## CHINCHÓN

Few towns bring together the power of history and the vitality of the present quite so naturally as Chinchón. Its arcaded Plaza Mayor, with its medieval roots, preserves intact the character of traditional Castilian architecture, with its green balconies, its irregular layout and that spontaneous harmony found only in places shaped by the passage of centuries.

The square is not merely the town's urban heart: it is also its grand stage, the space where daily life, festive traditions and collective identity continue to converge. Churches, convents, caves, underground wine cellars and the Castle of the Counts of Chinchón make up a richly varied urban landscape, where every element seems to contribute to the same atmosphere of authenticity.






### MICRO-EXPERIENCE

Climb up to the castle at sunset: from there, the reddish rooftops, the square and the countryside present a perfect synthesis of the soul of Chinchón.

## COLMENAR DE OREJA

In Colmenar de Oreja, stone and wine have shaped the character of the town for centuries. This town is distinguished by the noble simplicity of its Castilian Plaza Mayor and by a winemaking tradition that forms an essential part of its identity.

Wineries, churches, stately homes and the agricultural landscape come together here to form a scene of elegant historical continuity. Everything in Colmenar de Oreja speaks of balance: between work and beauty, between memory and permanence, between the monumental legacy and the everyday life that still sustains it.




## VILLAREJO DE SALVANÉS

The skyline of Villarejo de Salvanés is dominated by the imposing Torre del Homenaje, one of the great heritage landmarks of the Las Vegas & Madrid's Alcarria. Its presence serves as a reminder of the town's historical importance and its connection to the Order of Santiago.

Climbing up to it is like looking out over a landscape where geography and history intertwine, and where the open landscape helps one to understand the former strategic importance of this enclave. The town thus preserves an identity shaped by its military past, monumental heritage and the vastness of the surrounding horizon.



## NUEVO BAZTÁN

Nuevo Baztán embodies one of the most unique visions of the Spanish Enlightenment. Initiated in the 18th century by Juan de Goyeneche, this complex brings together a palace, a church and an urban layout in an extraordinary example of Baroque planning in the service of progress.

Its orderly streets and the unity of its architecture reveal a modern conception of the territory, designed not only for habitation, but also for production and prosperity. To walk through Nuevo Baztán is to enter a town conceived as a project, as an aspiration and as a form of harmony between beauty and reason.

## A WALK THROUGH THE ENLIGHTENED TOWN

Wander through its streets and let the town's layout itself reveal an idea that was unusual for its time: that of a town conceived as an expression of order, work and modernity.



Heritage · Nature · Scenic

## BUITRAGO DEL LOZOYA

Buitrago del Lozoya stands out with its walled silhouette as one of the most striking images of medieval Madrid. Nestled along the banks of the River Lozoya, the town preserves a defensive enclosure of extraordinary beauty that evokes its former strategic importance.

The castle and the historic centre form a setting of rare intensity, where stone, water and memory come together to create a scene of great evocative power. To stroll through Buitrago is to enter a place where history is not merely on display: it is in the air.

### MICRO-EXPERIENCE

Walk along the ramparts first thing in the morning, when the light is still soft and the river silently traces the town's outline.





## PATONES



Patones de Arriba is one of the finest examples of 'black architecture' in the region. Built of slate and blending seamlessly with the mountainous surroundings, this ancient settlement retains a harmony that goes far beyond mere picturesqueness: here, landscape and architecture seem to have been born of the same substance.

Its cobbled streets, traditional houses and the tranquillity that can be sensed at every turn make Patones a place of understated beauty, where authenticity needs no artifice. Everything invites you to walk slowly and let the landscape speak for itself.

## TORRELAGUNA

Linked to the figure of Cardinal Cisneros, Torrelaguna boasts a rare historical richness. Its church of Santa María Magdalena ranks among the town's great heritage landmarks, whilst the town centre displays a valuable collection of buildings, squares and traditional architecture.

For centuries, the town played a prominent role in the religious, cultural and administrative life of the region, and that legacy continues to shine through in the grandeur of its façades and the serene dignity of its streets.



## RASCAFRÍA

Nestled in the heart of the Lozoya Valley, Rascafría offers one of the most harmonious fusions of historical heritage and mountain landscape. The Monastery of Santa María de El Paular lends the place a cultural and spiritual depth that is echoed in the natural surroundings that embrace it.

The Puente del Perdón bridge, the Presillas, the riverside woods and the paths leading towards Peñalara combine to form a landscape of great beauty, where water, stone and trees come together to create an experience of tranquillity and contemplation. Rascafría is not just a place to visit: it is a place to dwell for a few hours with a rare intensity.

### MICRO-EXPERIENCE

Cross the Puente del Perdón and head towards Las Presillas: the valley then opens up amidst meadows, water and mountain peaks, as if the mountain range were breathing slowly before your very eyes.



# SIERRA OESTE DE MADRID

Heritage · Nature · Wine Tourism

## SAN MARTÍN DE VALDEIGLESIAS

San Martín de Valdeiglesias brings together history, landscape and winemaking tradition in a particularly evocative balance. Its rich historic centre serves as a reminder of the town's significance, whilst the proximity of the San Juan Reservoir and the surrounding natural environment extend the experience to include the water, the woodland and the open light of the Western Sierra.

Here, heritage cannot be understood without the surrounding countryside, nor can the landscape be understood without the wine culture that has shaped local life for centuries. The result is a town with a warm and welcoming character, where time seems to move at a more leisurely pace.

## NAVALCARNERO

Navalcarnero brings to the Madrid's historic towns a particularly appealing combination of history, traditional architecture and wine culture. Its Plaza de Segovia, the town's urban heart, perfectly encapsulates the character of a town where daily life continues to revolve around public spaces, terraces, porticoed façades and the memory of centuries past.

Its winemaking tradition, rich gastronomy and the Castilian atmosphere of its historic centre make Navalcarnero a destination with great character, ideal for those seeking a getaway where heritage and the joy of living go hand in hand.



Heritage · Scenic

## MANZANARES EL REAL



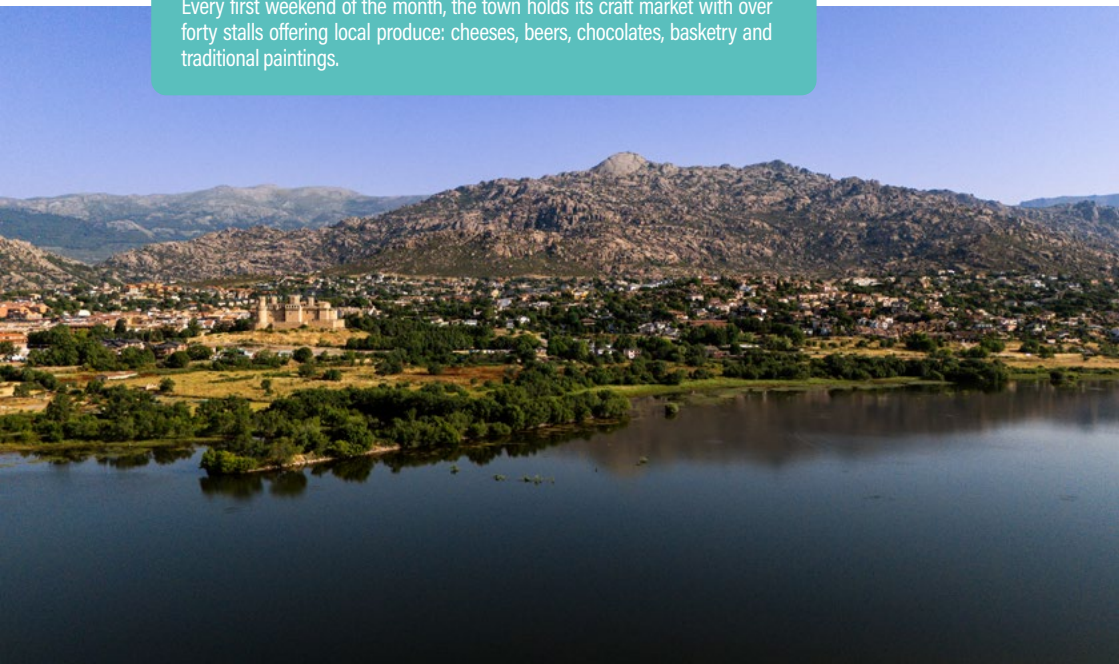
A stroll through Manzanares El Real is an invitation to discover, step by step, the harmony between history and nature. The route can begin in the town centre, where the cobbled streets and mountain atmosphere set the tranquil pace of the town. From here, simply let yourself be guided by the imposing silhouette of the Mendoza Castle; a view here allows you to immerse yourself in the medieval past and the history of Madrid's nobility.

Just a few minutes away, the ruins of the Old Castle serve as a reminder of the town's defensive origins and offer a different perspective on its historical development. Continuing the walk, the path opens out onto the Santillana reservoir, where the landscape transforms into a vast horizon of water and mountains, ideal for stopping to watch birds or simply enjoy the peace and quiet.

From here, the more active visitors can extend the route along the footpaths leading to La Pedriza, one of the most unique natural landscapes in the mountains, or head towards the Hermitage of Nuestra Señora de la Peña Sacra, nestled in a setting of great beauty. Thus, amidst paths, history and nature, Manzanares El Real is best explored at a leisurely pace, like a stroll that invites you to discover every corner at your own pace.

### MICRO-EXPERIENCE

Every first weekend of the month, the town holds its craft market with over forty stalls offering local produce: cheeses, beers, chocolates, basketry and traditional paintings.



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**Towns of Madrid: Heritage, history, gastronomy... and adventures**

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